

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 13073 171452Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----000705 171454Z /45

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9241
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 13073

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PBOR UNSC EG IS LE
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: SUPPORT OF UNIFIL

REF: STATE 125072 (NOTAL)

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH SADAT AND VP MUBARAK THIS AFTERNOON, I TOOK UP WITH THEM PROBLEMS UNIFIL IS FACING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON FROM PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST ELEMENTS. I WENT THROUGH THE POINTS MADE REFTEL, EMPHASIZING THAT WE BELIEVE MAIN BODY OF PLO UNDER ARAFAT IS CAPABLE OF RECOGNIZING ISSUE AT STAKE AND OF BEHAVING RESPONSIBLY. UNFORTUNATELY, SOME PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST ELEMENTS DO NOT SEEM TO BE ABLE TO DO SO. I STRESSED UNIFIL'S FAILURE, SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, WOULD BE MAJOR BLOW TO CONTRIBUTOR STATES AND TO UN. REPERCUSSIONS OF SUCH A FAILURE WOULD GO BEYOND MIDDLE EAST AND STAGE WOULD BE SET FOR RENEWED LARGE-SCALE FIGHTING IN SOUTH LEBANON. THIS IN TURN COULD GENERATE INTO ANOTHER FULL-SCALE ARAB/ISRAELI WAR.

2. I NOTED WE CONTINUE TO PRESS ISRAEL TO SET A FIRM
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DATE FOR FINAL WITHDRAWAL, BUT ISRAELIS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO DO SO IN THE FACE OF PALESTINIAN CHALLENGES TO UNIFIL. IT WAS IN ALL OF OUR INTERESTS TO TRY TO CORRECT SITUATION. WHILE WE ARE AWARE THAT EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE WITH ARAFAT MAY NOT BE WHAT IT ONCE WAS, WE ARE ALSO CONVINCED PLO LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZES CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF EGYPTIAN ROLE. WE HOPED THAT SADAT MIGHT

BE ABLE TO DO WHAT HE CONSIDERS FEASIBLE TO PREVENT THIS
PLO CHALLENGE TO UNIFIL.

3. SADAT KNEW ALL ABOUT UNIFIL'S PROBLEMS. HE AGREED
THAT SITUATION HAS TO BE CORRECTED QUICKLY IF UNIFIL IS TO
REMAIN A VIABLE FORCE AND IF ISRAELIS ARE TO BE PERSUADED
TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH LEBANON. HE NOTED THAT ARAFAT
CONTINUES CONSTANTLY TO TRY TO SEND MESSAGES TO HIM AND HE
AGREED THAT PLO LEADERSHIP STILL TAKES EGYPT INTO ACCOUNT.

4. IN MY PRESENCE, HE GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO MUBARAK TO
SEND AN IMMEDIATE MESSAGE TO ARAFAT TO DO UTMOST STOP
HARRASSMENT OF UNIFIL. HE ALSO INSTRUCTED MUBARAK SEND A
SECOND MESSAGE TO SAUDI ARABIA TELLING SAUDIS OF HIS
MESSAGE TO ARAFAT AND URGING THAT THEY SUPPORT THIS EFFORT.
EILTS

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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